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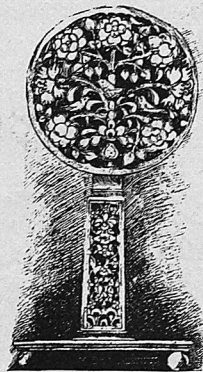
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THE HOME WORKSHOP



MRS. GEORGE L. THOMAS. "From the abundance of resources that one must enjoy in residence in a city, in which everything new is to be seen, can you propose any thing unique in ornamental house-furnishing? I wish something novel, and yet inexpensive, as I am living in a country town, in which there is commendable rivalry in the household appointments of certain of the ladies, and my husband is a man of moderate means. I do some painting, both in oil and water-colors, and if you could suggest anything by which I can make my accomplishment available, you will oblige me." The most novel and unique household ornament to which my attention has been latterly attracted, was a wooden spade, decorated in a painted design in oil colors, and used in the parlor of a fashionable lady. In the bowl of the spade, is a winter landscape, with a stream spanned by a rustic bridge in the foreground, a range of low mountains in the distance, a cottage and out-houses, with leafless trees in the middle ground, birds alight on the trees and flying in the air, and snow covering the scene. The shaft and the handle of the spade are gilded, and tied around the shaft and through the handle is a bow of red satin ribbon, the ribbon is about four inches wide. While examining this really pretty piece of furniture, it occurred to us that very handsome, unique, and suggestive fancies might be made for a dining room, combining a spade hoe and rake. The spade might be suggestively painted in a design of kitchen vegetables, somewhat after the fashion of the old Dutch market scenes, seen in picture galleries in cities in Germany. A head of cabbage, with several ears of corn, a bunch of radishes, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, and other vegetables, with some of their foliage, might be very pleasingly grouped; and the spade might become in the course of time an ornament almost as interesting as the celebrated painted violin of Bologna. The hoe might be painted in a design of esculent roots with some of the foliage of the respective plants, and straggling heads of wheat, rye, or oats might be caught on the rake. The shafts of these tools might be clambered around by vines which could climb up and embrace the handles; and the three pieces could be tied together with a gilded manilla rope, the ends fringed out and knotted to form tassels. A design of melons and fruit might be substituted for those suggested in the bowl of the spade, or there might be a study of flowers, and flowers might be painted on the shafts and handles.



DRAPED LOOKING GLASS.—Ruby-colored Roman sheeting, arranged in festoons with irregular folds drooping at the sides, and caught up at the top with satin or gimp rosette; over this is thrown a sort of figured silk or Madras muslin.

All that is strictly after the fanciful or decorative character in our simple little house must be of my own handiwork. To further this end with me, you will be doing a kindness which shall be duly appreciated." And the situation described by you is



CIRCULAR PHOTO BOARD.—This new idea recalls the shape of a tea-cosy. The wood is first covered with a thin layer of cotton wool, over which is stretched crimson or peacock blue plush, irregularly crossed with fancy gold galon, through which are stuck in an apparently careless way photos, painted cards, etc. A triangle and rectangle of old brocade or Eastern embroidery further brings more variety to this tableau, which is suspended to a screen or the wall with wide moire ribbon and a huge bow.

appreciated in the "Home Workshop." A late fancy in wall decoration has forms in painters' palettes made of inexpensive woods somewhat larger than the palettes in practical use, which are decorated, trimmed with a bunch of artificial flowers and a bow of ribbon, and hung on the wall. A very unique and tasteful idea, is to throw over the palette blotches of



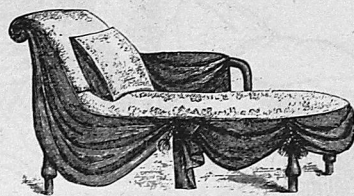
NOVEL WATCH STAND. Foundation of plain white wood, representing an old-fashioned miniature cupboard, over which is stretched satin or plush, embroidered in front with forget-me-nots and lilies-of-the-valley. The watch is hooked on a well padded medallion, whilst the door opens and discloses shelves for trinkets, lace, etc.; enamel or Vernis Martin painting will effectively replace the embroidered satin or plush.

paints of different colors, to represent the unmixed pigments with which artists fill their palettes, smooth down these blotches so as not to be in too bold relief, and after they are thoroughly dry, apply a coat of fine varnish. Some of the palettes have a gilded background, but the wooden grounding of natural color is more pleasing, as it is more significant. Tie in a bunch of scarlet poppies, with bow of satin ribbon in old-gold, bright yellow, moss green, or medium turquoise blue through the thumb-hole, confining the flowers by strong glue. Or, you can have a bouquet of mixed field flowers; or, you can substitute any favorite flower for the purpose. The effect of the palette for wall decoration is extremely felicitous. The unpainted palettes can be found in any shop at which artists' materials are kept. Another unique wall decoration was lately suggested to the mind of the writer by being shown a lot of sabots, or wooden shoes, made by some French peasants who have recently settled in our country. The toes on some of these wooden shoes were square, upon others they were pointed, the points curving upward, and suggesting a revival of mediæval styles in footgear. For decorative purposes, the sabots with the pointed toes would be the more artistic. The pair of sabots, could, in the first place, have a gilded background, with the inside gilded or painted some delicate color—ciel blue, pale old rose, or a neutral tint. Then upon the instep could be a spray or a mat of flowers. The pair of shoes might be joined by a screw; rings could be fastened in the heels, and the pair suspended by a bridle and bow of ribbon. Ribbon bows might also be tacked on the toes, and a band of ribbon might be tied around the quarters, with a bow in front. Doubtless a pair of these sabots could be obtained of French peasants settled in the cities. Should our correspondent be deficient in the art of painting, she could bring decalcomaine to her aid in decorating the wooden shoes.



VEIL FOR LAMP.—Faintly colored embroidered gauze or Japanese crepe.

MRS. JANE L. WOODWARD. In reply to your inquiries in reference to decorated table linen, we would call attention to answers to several correspondents in the last issue of the DECORATOR AND FURNISHER, as in the notes alluded to, a very exhaustive description of various fancies in embroidery for napery was given. However, as new ideas are constantly developing in decoration for table linen, the subject is hardly possible of exhaustion, at least as long as the fureur exists. Since our last writing several fresh fancies in table linen decoration have been presented. The novelty of the moment, in its kind, appears in napery embroidered wholly with Japanese tinsel threads. A very beautiful illustration is a cloth for a tea table wrought in gold, silver, copper and steel threads. The design is an elaborate one, in large conventionalized floriated, intertwined with arabesque traceries. Double rows of the threads are couched on, and the different threads are so employed as to give the effect peculiar to Persian embroideries—this seeming the more remarkable and being the more pleasing for the absence of the brilliant colored silks which help to give distinctive character to Oriental needle work. This embroidery is wholly in tracery, done by



UPHOLSTERED BAMBOO COUCH.—Foundation enameled in white, seat, back and cushion in pink plush or satin, adorned with wreaths of Pompadour embroidery applique, and stuffed with horsehair and down. Drapery of light blue plush, caught up with mixed chenille cord and tassels. A more durable arrangement would be black and gold, or any of the fancy figured materials in silk, woolen, or cretonne.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

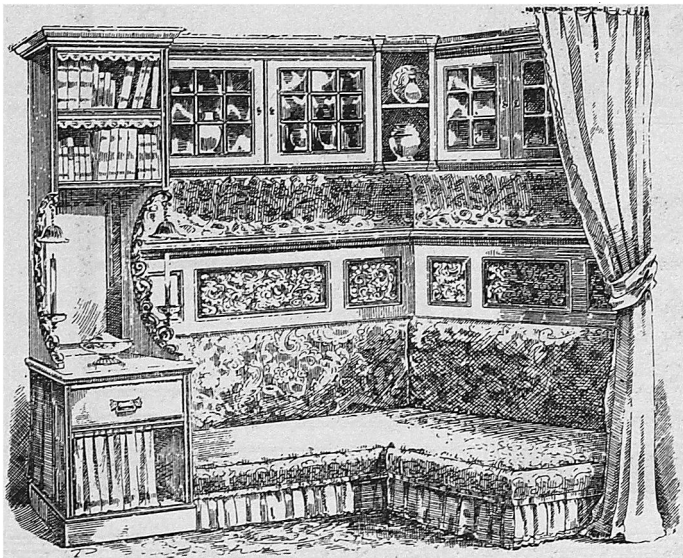
couching on the metallic threads. It is neither difficult nor tedious to do, and is very effective. The Japanese metallic threads bear washing well, so that there is little risk in using them on table linen. There were no napkins or doyleys to match the table cover in question; a full set would sumptuously furnish a tea table. We have also taken account, since our last writing, of very beautiful table cloths, with napkins and doyleys *en suite*, wrought in conventionalized designs in stem and Kensington stitches, done with Brainerd and Armstrong's raw silk, in cream white, suitable spaces filled in with lace and herringbone stitches, and the figures outlined with Japanese gold thread couched on. Work of the same kind, done with Barbour's flax flourishing threads, is no less effective than when done with silk, while the advantage may be on the side of using flax threads, if there be need of frequent laundryings.

DILIGENT READER. "As the fitting up and furnishing of my house is what most interests me, aside from care for my husband and children, you can hardly wonder that the DECORATOR AND FURNISHER is not only expected, but most voraciously read from month to month. I really cannot tell what I should do without it. It abounds in information and suggestions, and my husband being a man of ample means and disposed to be indulgent, allows me to have whatever I like. But he is always best pleased when my fancy runs into something that is the work of my own hands. Thus he is delighted with the wheat-sack sofa pillows, made after directions in the "Home Workshop;" and now that I have begun to make sofa pillows, I feel that I cannot have too many, or in too great variety. The 'fad' (horrid word!) is with me consuming, for the present. Do give me, if you please, some fresh ideas in reference to these fascinating luxuries in house furnishing." Very dainty and elegant covers for sofa pillows are made of heavy upholsterers' satin, and of artists' satteen, in what are known to some as Louis XV. designs. This embroidery is done with ribbons not wider than coarse broom straw, with effect very similar to Pompadour designs which have been handed down on silk and satin brocades. They



TABLE LAMP AND SHADE. Solid brass, polished and lacquered, with duplex burner and cut glass receptacle, with dome-shaped wire shade, covered with colored lisse, over which fall three lace flounces. Torsade and bow in orange-colored corded ribbon.

consist of bouquets, sprays and garlands of small blossoms and foliage in the colors of nature, the work in application entirely; with the exception of the stems. It would be difficult to imagine anything in fancy work more daintily beautiful than this embroidery, every flower and leaf formed of the delicate ribbons, and perfectly faithful in imitation. But it is not work to be seen across a drawing-room. It must be handled to be appreciated; and the more closely it is examined the more will it be commended to one of refined taste. This ribbon embroidery is not an outcome of the latter day impulse to Decorative Art, but is a revival of delicate handicraft, specimens of which are to be found in the Cluny Museum and other museums in European cities. It is reasonable, indeed, to suspect that, with the brocades to which she gave character, it may have originated with the spirited beauty of the reign of the French monarch in question. It would not be hard to picture Madame Pompadour



A Fitment, by Miss E. Wetton.

with a piece of it in her hands; and perhaps the work was the suggestion for the brocades with the dainty sprays and garlands, as fresh in colors as the blossoms of the garden. It may be

tedious, but it is hardly difficult to accomplish. Beside covers for sofa pillows, there are shown bags and other conveniences enriched with this embroidery.

FLOY. "I am a little girl who has lately reached her 'teens.' I can do very nice *crochet* work and have learned to knit, although I have not yet finished the pair of socks for my father, for which I am to receive a diamond ring. I can also sew some; and I have done a cover for my piano stool in arasene embroidery. But you do not speak well of arasene embroi-



Bed Quilt in Flat Embroidery and Drawn Work.

dery in the "Home Workshop," and I think I shall give it up. Do tell me if there is anything I can do that will be ornamental, and that will not tax my patience too much. Mamma tells me I ought to cultivate patience, but I dare say there will be time enough for that." If the taxing of your patience is the chief ground of your dislike for needlework and knitting, you can be amused, perhaps, by making a snow basket. For this fashion a basket out of card-board, making it an oblong square, about ten inches in length and seven inches broad, and let the handle be about an inch and a half in width. Or you can make the basket round, oval, or basin-shaped. Then apply to your father's butcher for a nice white cow's horn. Have the horn well cleaned, and before beginning to use it stuff it tightly with raw cotton. Then, with a good supply of pieces of broken glass, scrape the horn until you have shavings that are several inches in length, and as white as snow. Continue the scraping until you have a great pile of shavings, when with a needle and strong thread, tack bunches of shavings inside and out, and all over the handle, until the basket is perfectly covered. You can then fill your basket with paper flowers. No more tasteful basket for holding Easter eggs than the snow basket could be devised. Cow's horn shavings have also been used for the making of mock chrysanthemums for winter mantel decoration. Bunches of the shavings are gathered up, and sewed through tightly with strong thread, and for stamens, bits of yellow flannel cut round, and fringed out on the edge, are tacked in the centre. The mock chrysanthemums, mounted on wire, are then stuck in vases with cedar holly or some other evergreen. This homely ornamentation is cheerful and not unhand-some. You will bear in mind that the outer shavings of the horn will be yellow and will look dirty and must be thrown away, and none should be used until they are found purely white. A single horn will furnish shavings enough to cover a basket of the dimensions proposed and make several dozen chrysanthemums; the horn will then be in beautiful condition to be hung as an ornament, and will make a nice receptacle for dried grasses and immortelles. Have the mouth scalloped, bore a gimlet-hole in each scallop, and suspend by a ribbon run through one of the gimlet-holes and tied on the tip.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER is not a magazine for architects and art tradesmen alone, but will be found a most welcome visitor to every intelligent family. It gives most valuable hints for beautifying the home, and illustrates them in a generous fashion. The February number gives the result of the Price prize contest in art Drawing. A full page wood engraving of the first prize design for decorating a room in "maize" or Indian corn designs, shows that it was worthily awarded. It is a unique and very tasteful work. The rest of the number is devoted to decorative designs and articles on household art of superior excellence.—*Utica Herald.*